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## Donovan Is at Work on It

# Release Hopes Rise for 20 A

By George W. Cornell  
Associated Press

There are 20 Americans languishing in Cuban prisons, condemned there for years ahead. But now their release is expected shortly.

At least 16 of them are said to be held incommunicado. Some are reported weak, nervous, deeply despondent. Two are women.

The Swiss Ambassador in Havana, Emil Stadelhoffer, who recently visited some of them in the Isle of Pines prison compound, said of their mental outlook:

**"An American without hope  
is impossible."**

Prospects that they may be freed within a few weeks were seen by James B. Donovan, the New York lawyer who arranged the ransom of the Cubans captured in the Bay of Pigs invasion attempt.

Donovan said no goods would be exchanged in the case of the Americans. "It is an entirely different matter," he said, en route to Cuba for negotiations.

Most of the 20 whose fate

at stake were charged with counter-revolutionary activity against the Fidel Castro regime, and sentenced to long terms, 10 to 30 years.

They are a mix of varied temperaments and backgrounds—war veterans, a fireman, a youth who never “liked fighting,” a photographer, a boyhood friend of Castro, a flying “soldier of fortune.”

Reports of cryptic and audacious missions surrounded some of their arrests.

Parents, in some instances were mystified by the affairs.

"He had no business in any thing like that," said the mother of one of them, Thomas L. Baker, 30, a Dothan, Ala. Army veteran and truck driver.

He and five others, on a yacht in Havana Jan. 7, 1961, were of trying to smuggle anti-Castro in- released to prison.

prison walls  
roll. The world  
last week when  
ceased prisoner,  
a Geddes, 31,  
city after two  
infirmity.

~~kidnaping, eavesdropping on a  
Red Chinese news agency.~~

The facts remain uncertain, but two already released American prisoners have told tales of risky, underground ventures.

## Randquist's Story

One of them, Howard Rundquist, 38, a Minneapolis salesman and pilot, was shot June after being seen trying to fly a plane out of Cuba.

Falls, N. C.  
 rect, 28, of Nor-  
 Leonard Lewis  
 Chicago, Alfred  
 Durham, N. C.  
 Green of Clover,

York City, was reported arrested on a forgery charge, then freed, and later re-arrested. Cuban exiles says the order imprisoning him came directly from Castro's brother, Raul. One allegation was that he parachuted into Cuba.

Reason for the imprisonment of three other Americans has not been learned. They are Dario Probas and Alberto German Sanchez, both Cuban exiles, and Ramon

captured at the St. Johns River, Ohio, was convicted and sentenced to 30 years before the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion on charges of plotting to kidnap Cuban President Osvaldo Dorticos.

# Americans Held in Cuba